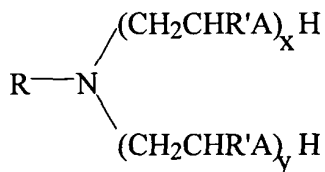


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An invert emulsion fluid having utility for drilling, completing, or working over subterranean wells, said fluid comprising:

- a) an oleaginous fluid;
- b) a non-oleaginous fluid;
- c) a weighting material; and
- d) an amine surfactant having the structure



wherein R is a C<sub>12</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> aliphatic hydrocarbon; R' is an independently selectable from hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>3</sub> alkyl; A is NH or O, and  $1 \leq x+y \leq 3$ .

2. (Original) The invert emulsion fluid of claim 1 wherein said oleaginous fluid comprises from about 30% to about 99% by volume of said fluid.

3. (Original) The invert emulsion fluid of claim 1 wherein said oleaginous fluid is selected from a group consisting of diesel oil, mineral oil, a synthetic oil, and combinations thereof.

4. (Previously presented) The invert emulsion fluid of claim 1 wherein said oleaginous fluid comprises from 5% to about 100% by volume of the oleaginous fluid a material selected from a group consisting of esters, ethers, acetals, di-alkylcarbonates, hydrocarbons, and combinations thereof.

5. (Original) The invert emulsion fluid of claim 1 wherein said non-oleaginous fluid comprises from about 1% to about 70% by volume of said fluid.

6. (Original) The invert emulsion fluid of claim 1 wherein said non-oleaginous fluid is an aqueous liquid.

7. (Original) The invert emulsion fluid of claim 6 wherein said aqueous liquid is selected from the group consisting of sea water, a brine containing organic or inorganic dissolved salts, a liquid containing water-miscible organic compounds, and combinations thereof.

8. (Original) The invert emulsion fluid of claim 1 wherein R is unsaturated.

9. (Previously presented) The invert emulsion of claim 1 further comprising a bridging agent.

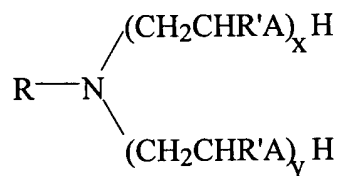
10. (Original) The invert emulsion of claim 9 wherein the weighting or bridging agent is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, dolomite, siderite, barite, celestite, iron oxides, manganese oxides, ulexite, carnalite, and sodium chloride.

11. (Original) The invert emulsion of claim 1 wherein said amine surfactant is selected from diethoxylated tallow amine; diethoxylated soya amine; N-aliphatic-1,3-diaminopropane wherein the aliphatic group is a C<sub>12</sub> to C<sub>22</sub> hydrocarbon; or combinations thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) An invert emulsion fluid having utility for drilling completing, or working over subterranean wells, said fluid comprising:

- a) an oleaginous liquid, said oleaginous liquid comprising from about 30% to about 99% by volume of said fluid;
- b) a non-oleaginous liquid, said non-oleaginous liquid comprising from about 1% to about 70% by volume of said fluid;

- c) a weighting agent; and
- d) an amine surfactant present in said fluid at a concentration of 0.1% to 5.0% by weight of said fluid, said amine surfactant having a structure of:



wherein R is a C<sub>12</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> aliphatic hydrocarbon; R' is an independently selectable from hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>3</sub> alkyl; A is NH or O, and  $1 \leq x+y \leq 3$ .

13. (Original) The invert emulsion fluid of claim 12 wherein said oleaginous liquid is selected from a group consisting of diesel oil, mineral oil, a synthetic oil, and combinations thereof.

14. (Previously Presented) The invert emulsion fluid of claim 13 wherein said oleaginous fluid comprises from 5% to about 100% by volume of the oleaginous fluid a material selected from a group consisting of esters, ethers, acetals, di-alkylcarbonates, hydrocarbons, and combinations thereof.

15. (Original) The invert emulsion fluid of claim 14 wherein said non-oleaginous liquid is an aqueous liquid.

16. (Original) The invert emulsion fluid of claim 15 wherein said aqueous liquid is selected from the group consisting of sea water, a brine containing organic or inorganic dissolved salts, a liquid containing water-miscible organic compounds, and combinations thereof.

17. (Original) The invert emulsion fluid of claim 12 wherein R is unsaturated.



Serial No.: 09/770,848  
Confirmation No.: 8405  
Applicant: PATEL  
Atty. Ref.: 11836.0582.CNUS01

18. (Original) The invert emulsion of claim 12 wherein said amine surfactant is selected from diethoxylated tallow amine; diethoxylated soya amine; N-aliphatic-1,3-diaminopropane wherein the aliphatic group is a C<sub>12</sub> to C<sub>22</sub> hydrocarbon; or combinations thereof.

19-22. Canceled

23. Canceled

24. Canceled